

We must hear more before we admit the truth of the allegations.*

Glasgow.—A swimming-bath has been formed at the Paisley-road. The water is supplied by the Gorbals Gravitation Works. The length of the bath is 60 feet, breadth 30 feet. At Anderston, too, as we lately noticed, exertions are still kept up to establish cheap public baths.

Scullomie, Kyle of Tongue.—A new harbour, on the north-west coast of Scotland, has just been contracted for on plans furnished to the Duke of Sutherland by Mr. J. Bremner, C.E., Wick. The harbour is to be at Scullomie, in the Kyle of Tongue, and county of Sutherland, and will be erected at a cost of 3,000*l*. The depth of water at high-water of spring tides is 23 feet, and at low water 3 feet; at high-water of ordinary tides 21 feet, and at low-water 10 feet.

Bradford.—The School of Design, which has been in operation for some years at Bradford, in connection with the Mechanics' Institution, is about to be removed from it, and the local *Observer* fears, given up. The Mechanics' Institute is greatly pressed for want of room, and the Athenæum, exclusively used by the School of Design, is intended to be converted into a reading-room. The *Observer*, however, proposes the erection of additional buildings rather, on vacant ground attached to the Institute. The cost of suitable buildings, filling up the whole of the vacant ground, would be somewhere about 400*l*; but should only half of the ground be built upon at present, it would cost some 200*l*. It would indeed be a disgrace to a manufacturing town like Bradford, depending as it does so much upon beauty and effect in the goods produced, were so important an institution as the School of Design given up.

Durham.—The various tenders connected with the erection of new markets for this city having been considered by the directors of the company authorised by Act of Parliament to erect the buildings, the entire works were contracted for as follows:—Masonry, Mr. Forster; joinery, &c., Mr. R. Robson; painting, &c., Mr. Meggeson; slate work, Mr. R. Rule; plumber's work, Mr. E. Heron; plasterer's work, Mr. C. Coxon, all of Durham; and iron roofing, Mr. Charlton, of Newcastle.

THE VALUE OF DATED STONES— HERALDIC INSIGNIA.

In your article in last week's *BUILDER*, referring to what the Americans have done and ought to have done, in regard to the Great Exhibition, you make some just remarks on the historical value of recorded dates, such as we are accustomed to bury on foundation stones, or which may be occasionally placed in more conspicuous situations, on inscribed tablets, or in windows; or which might, as the American suggests, be impressed upon the surfaces of the very bricks and other materials used in building.

This has reminded me to request you to denounce a trifling, but still very reprehensible, piece of Vandalism which has been recently perpetrated in the city of Westminster. You are aware that it was a frequent practice of the last century to place a stone tablet at the corner of a street, with its name carved thereon, and occasionally the date of the street. Such a stone there exists, with the date 1769 (if my memory rightly serves me), at the corner of Fladler-street, near Downing-street.

* One of the Liverpool papers, in giving an account of these "awful disclosures," says:—"The buying and selling of manumissions has been general, one man having retired upon a competency realised by these malpractices; another had ten private vehicles, one for Sundays and the other for week days, built in the yard, at the cost of the dock estate, the expenses being charged to various accounts, so as to conceal the transaction; others have received the full amount of their salaries, in some instances as much as 200*l*. a year, although absent from their duties the whole summer; one man, who died in 1847, appears in the books as having been fully employed till 1848, his widow continuing to receive her deceased husband's wages, even after she had married a second husband; another man received wages and sick money, and even his funeral expenses, some months before his death; bakers, joiners, tailors, and carters, said to be wholly unfit and incompetent, have been appointed at high salaries as firemen and clerks; and more boys have been paid 30*s*. a week while out on pleasure excursions for several weeks together. The sanitation created among all classes in Liverpool by these disclosures is not to be described."

Though this stone was perfectly legible, and neatly executed, some party, who a few weeks ago had obtained the employment of repainting the names of the streets, beplastered over the stone, and thus obliterated an interesting, though humble, public monument. Without attaching undue importance to this petty piece of mischief, I think it deserves to be publicly noticed and stigmatised as a wanton act of mutilation. The like may have been done in other places out of the sphere of my observation. It presents a melancholy contrast, when we observe the British Americans yearning with deep interest to recover the records of their forefathers, whilst we are heedless of their destruction under our very eyes.

Having my pen in hand, allow me to add a remark on the note of your leading article, which states that "a wild boar" was the crest of King Richard III. That was not the case. His crest was the same as the royal crest at present—a lion passant crowned. The boar was his beast, used to support a shield or carry a banner; also, as a cognisance or badge for his retainers, and as a pendant for his collar of livery. It was usual to typify great men by their heraldic beasts, and thus Richard of

Gloucester was called the Boar, or, for rhyme's sake, the Hog. From the disease of cognisances (except in a few lingering instances), this is an error of not unfrequent occurrence. In many instances the ancient cognisances of our nobility are obsolete, and nearly forgotten; in others they have been converted into crests or supporters, or even into quarterings; but the confusion of modern ideas upon the subject does not necessarily involve any ambiguity when we are speaking of times when these several insignias were perfectly distinct.

J. G. N.

SEWAGE OF CHESTER—COMPETITION.

The following is the result of a competition for the first division of a main intercepting sewer to concentrate the drainage of the city of Chester into one channel, so that the whole of the sewage may be conveyed some distance down the river Dee before it discharges itself, or to a convenient point where it may be used as manure for the low lands on the banks of the river.

Size of sewer, 3 feet 6 in. by 2 feet 8 in.; depth varying from 10 feet to 18 feet. Mr. Baylis, engineer.

	BRICKWORK.			
	4½ in.	9 in.	4½ in. arch. 9 in. invert.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Miller, John, Bobington	0 13 0	0 16 0	0 13 0	Per lineal yard, including bricks &c.
Margatroyd, David, Birkenhead	0 12 6	0 19 0	0 16 0	Ditto
Cooper, B., Macmillanfield	0 12 6	1 1 0	0 18 0	Ditto
Bosbow, W., Liverpool	0 14 0	0 14 6	0 16 6	Ditto
Jones, Peter, Manchester	0 12 6	0 18 6	0 15 6	Ditto
Moss, Wm., Liverpool	0 12 6	1 19 6	0 14 9	Ditto
Edwards, Thomas, Birkenhead	0 14 0	Average ditto
Hemingway, B. and Co., Liverpool	0 15 3	1 4 3	0 19 6	Ditto
Graham, John, Bobington	0 16 0	1 0 6	0 17 6	Ditto
Clayton and Green, Liverpool	0 16 6	1 14 2	1 5 10	Ditto
Smith, Edward, Birkenhead	0 16 0	Average ditto
Houghton, H., Liverpool	0 17 9	1 12 3	1 7 0	Ditto
Humphreys, R., Chester	0 18 6	1 3 9	1 1 6	Ditto
Roberts, R., Chester	0 19 0	1 4 0	1 4 0	Ditto
Middleitch, J., West Derby	0 19 10	1 19 7	1 2 9	Ditto
Craven, William, Liscard	0 19 3	1 11 3	1 3 9	Ditto
Ouseley, Moses, Liverpool	1 0 0	1 6 6	1 4 0	Ditto
Stainton, Henry, Everton	Schedule of Prices			
Earthwork, in. per cube yard	0 2 6	0 3 6	...	Brickwork per lineal yard.

SIGHTS AND SCENERY.

The Royal Italian Opera House.—For the Italian version of the *Zemmerflöte*, which has been admirably produced here under the title of *Il Flauto Magico*, Messrs. Grieve and Telbin have produced a series of scenes illustrating ancient Egypt, which have much completeness and consistency. The buildings are polychromed, and the details (misunderstood a little here and there) are well attended to. The last scene is a colonnade of caryatides, after those in the Memnonium. The strength of the cast of this opera is unexampled. Last week, when the Queen visited this house in state, Mr. Gye constructed a very elegant box in the centre of the house, and fitted up the saloon and retiring rooms with glass curtains, a thousand flowers, and much good taste. We are happy to see his efforts are appreciated.

The Polytechnic Institution and the approaching Eclipse.—We were glad to find a large crowd the other evening at the Polytechnic Institution, listening to Dr. Bachhoffner's very clear and instructive exposition of the phenomena of eclipses in general, and of the expected eclipse of the sun on the 28th inst. in particular. We recommend our readers to go and hear it. The obscuration of the sun will commence at three minutes past two, and end at five minutes past four. The greatest obscuration in the metropolis will be at twenty minutes past three, when the sun will appear as a narrow crescent. Observers should look for the appearance of certain rose-coloured prominences, which are expected to be seen projecting beyond the sun's disc, and which are at present ill-understood. Let our readers prepare their blackened glasses, and take care that they don't put the wrong side next the nose!

Entrance to Places of Amusement.—Pray lift up the voice of your powerful journal against the disgraceful carelessness of arrangement which causes such perilous crushing at the doors of our public places of resort. Verily

"they manage such things better in France," and the simple way in which the admission of the most eager crowd is effected is worthy of admiration and adoption. Instead of being allowed to block up the doorway indiscriminately, visitors are obliged to stand in file between barriers made along the walls for the purpose, and which somewhat resemble the landing ladders used at our steamboat pier. As there is only room for one person, or at most for two persons abreast, it is evidently out of the question to obtain any more advanced position by pushing between those in front (such pushing in France would be regarded as an affront), and therefore every one quietly keeps his place, and follows those in front as fast as they are admitted. At Windsor, on Tuesday last, it was quite humiliating to hear the Frenchmen and their ladies, when crushed and bruised, and tossed to and fro, remark bitterly upon the stupidity of a nation which calls itself great, and exclaim, "Ah, c'est affreux! pourquoi donc ne fait-on pas faire la queue? Dans aucun pays de l'Europe on n'est traité comme ceci!" Why should not the public form "la queue," at railway booking offices on excursion train occasions, at theatres, and wherever a crowd is expected? F. N.

Marshall's Grand Tour through Europe.—The removal of Mr. Marshall's interesting and extensive panorama from the Concert-room of Her Majesty's Theatre to the Large Hall in Leicester-square, has interfered with its success though it has not lessened its merits, and we would, therefore, for the sake of the artist, again draw attention to it. The views in Venice, and the Rhine scenery, are especially well painted and truthful. We may mention, as very creditable to Mr. Marshall, that he has placed free admissions to the diorama at the disposal of many of the public schools, and has received in return gratifying testimonials of its educational character.

Mr. Horne's Museum.—We have had